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September 27, 2005

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. St., N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: STB Docket No. AB-490-1-X
Greenville County Economic Development Corporation Petition for Exemption for Partial
Discontinuance and Partial Abandonment in Greenville County, SC

Dear Mr. Williams:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the abandonment of service on the 11.8 mile Greenville and Northern Railroad as requested in the above referenced petition filed with the Surface Transportation Board by the Greenville County Economic Development Corporation.

As an elected member of the South Carolina House of Representatives since 1991, I have represented the citizens of House District 17, an area that encompasses much of Greenville County, and, more particularly, a large portion of the area affected by the possible abandonment of the Greenville and Northern Railroad. It is my belief that the abandonment of the aforementioned 11.8 mile tract is in the best interests of the citizens of Greenville County and particularly the citizens of House District 17.

As noted in the filings with the Surface Transportation Board on this issue, the 11.8 mile stretch at issue has not been used for several years and thus is no longer economically viable for industrial service. It is my understanding that the need for rail service on the 11.8 mile stretch is not of a sufficient volume to support the restoration of the line for industrial service. Instead, I believe that the abandonment and rail banking of the line will have a positive impact on the surrounding community by preserving the corridor for future use while permitting a revitalization of the area.

After considering all of these reasons, I do believe abandonment would be the best option for Greenville County. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Harry F. Cato
Harry F. Cato

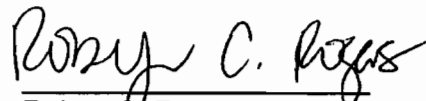
Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this 27th day of September 2005, a copy of the foregoing document was served by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, on the following:

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